

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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Ruth Hagy Brod Dies



Ruth Hagy Brod, a long time member of the OPC, died of lung cancer on May 9 in Freeport, the Bahamas.

For many years Ruth was a producer and moderator of the ABC-TV and radio program, *College News Conference*. She brought her conference to the OPC, planning programs which gathered college news editors from around the country to meet and be briefed at the OPC by leading members.

Ruth Brod was a former newspaperwoman in Philadelphia as well as a columnist. She co-authored the books *The Edgar Cayce Handbook of Health Through Drugless Therapy* (Macmillan) and *Ena Twigg, Medium* (Hawthorn).

Four years ago Ruth took on another career as a literary agent, and represented the late Allard K. Lowenstein in this capacity.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Al Brod, and by her daughter, Sybil Lefferts.

NO CLUB: NO DINNER

The Club will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the July 4th holiday. Dinner will not be served from June 27 through September 2.

Reporter's Lot Not a Happy One; Seek Help for One Who Vanished

The following is from Gene Pell, NBC News correspondent in Moscow.

Western journalists accredited to Moscow face nothing but obstruction or worse from Soviet authorities. Sometimes intimidation, harassment, and outright threats are added for good measure.

The obstructions and frustrations are especially great for the television correspondent. Television demands pictures, and the Soviets seem more frightened of the impact of one picture than a thousand words.

The U.S. networks are restricted to two Western employees each, a correspondent and a cameraman. It has only been in the last 18 months that the latter has been permitted.

Theoretically, filming is possible on the streets of the city and its immediate environs. As a practical matter that is not always possible. There is a long list of sensitive subjects the authorities don't want shown on Western television. There is an even longer list of items which simply cannot be filmed for official reasons. Cameramen have been berated, assaulted, arrested, and had their film confiscated for breaching official and unofficial rules.

If you can overcome the obstacles to getting pictures you are left with the problem of getting them to the West. Satellite transmissions from Moscow are possible and sometimes used, but never for anything politically sensitive. The Soviets simply will not provide the facilities to transmit a story about dissidents, for example. More than once they have pulled the plug during live transmissions when they did not like the content. Shipments of film via air freight are usually not disturbed, though there have been recent examples of film being deliberately destroyed.

These problems are compounded by the 8-hour time difference between Moscow and New York, a severe communications problem. It can take several hours to get a call through to one's

New York desk. The near impossibility of seeing, much less interviewing Soviet officials, as a result of all these problems, restricts coverage of the Soviet Union on American television.

Amnesty International reports that Rene Tamsen, a 28-year-old reporter for WHUR-FM (Washington) disappeared from his home in San Salvador on April 24. It is believed that he has been detained by security forces, although the authorities deny that he has been arrested. He is a citizen of El Salvador, and has been a permanent resident there.

There are reports that he was seen alive in a San Salvador prison, although the authorities deny his detention.

According to Amnesty International's account, Tamsen was abducted by three men in civilian clothes at 9:30 a.m. on April 24 while he was sitting in a San Salvador park.

In recent months, AI has received information that other journalists have been threatened, shot or briefly arrested by the security forces in El Salvador.

Members wishing to ask for assurances regarding his physical safety, should address their appeals to:

Sres. Miembros de la Junta Revolucionaria de Gobierno
Palacio Nacional
San Salvador, El Salvador
and to
Capitan Oswaldo Marinco
Presidente, Consejo Permanente
de las Fuerzas Armadas
Segunda Brigada D'Arteria
Cuartel San Carlos
San Salvador, El Salvador

Copies should be sent to the Embassy of El Salvador, 2308 California Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008; and to the Comision de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador, Av. Espana No. 928, San Salvador, El Salvador.

—Norman A. Schorr, OPC

Korea War Reporters Honor Dead



From left to right (with affiliation at the time of the war): George McArthur (AP) (in foreground with helmet); Irwin Tress (INP) (rear left); Bill Shinn (AP) (who came all the way from Tokyo just to attend this party) (face partly visible over shoulder); Max Desfor (AP— who won Pulitzer Prize for photo work in Korea) (wearing just war stories helmet); Bob Hecox (NBC) (face hidden under helmet, marine war stories); George Sweers (AP); Fred Waters (AP); Sandy Colton (Pacific Stars & Stripes); Ed Hymoff (INS); Jim Michener (Readers Digest); Bob Pierpoint (CBS).

Some 75 Korea War correspondents commemorated the 30th anniversary of its outbreak at a reunion over the Memorial Day weekend at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel, Roslyn, Va. They honored the memory of the 18 correspondents who lost their lives in that war at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

The reunion dinner wound up with the group sporting "war stories" helmets and singing song parodies of the time. Robert Sherbow of *Time Magazine* caught some of them in this photo.

U.S. Press in 1776

The Press and the American Revolution, a book of essays about newspapers and other press activity during the Revolutionary era, has just been published by the American Antiquarian Society. The essays "shed new light on the political, ideological, social and economic roles of the press" in that period. Russ Wiggins, once editor of the *Washington Post* and now publisher of the *Ellsworth (Maine) American*, wrote the afterword. Grants from the Gridiron Club's foundation made publication possible. The 400-pager at \$24.95 can be had from the University Press of Virginia, Box 3608 University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Letters

WASHINGTON — *Sigrid Schultz*, dean of American women foreign correspondents, often was told: "You write like a man." I asked her if she did not resent the implication a woman has to be like a man to write well.

In a letter dated May 13 she answered many questions, and the last paragraph said:

"Yes, I certainly believe in the rights of the female, but I insist that the only thing that counts is efficiency, which is a fact that leading newspapermen believe, and therefore I'm grateful to the members of the Overseas Press Club for giving me the plaque which reads: 'A tough competitor, staunch friend, honest reporter. She worked like a newspaperman... From Her Friends. November 21, 1969.'

This letter was not signed. Instead, there was a note: "May 14 — Sigrid passed away in the night before she was able to sign this, but I am sure she would want you to have it. It was important to her. Lynne G. Nieller (helper)."

That big copper plaque hung in her living room as long as she lived. And the day she died she was busy helping another woman correspondent write a book.

My remembrance will go to the Overseas Press Club Foundation—Madeline Dane Ross Award to encourage correspondents who show their concern for humanity.
— *Julia Edwards*

* * *

ATHENS — The Foreign Press Association of Greece has moved to new, stately and spacious quarters at 23 Akademias Street, in the heart of Athens.

The three-story, neo-classic building originally served as a palace for Prince Nicholas, brother of King Constantine I during the first decades of the century. It was utilized as the German Embassy for a period.

In the past few years it has been used by the Agricultural Bank, which turned the property over to the Ministry of the Prime Ministry. The Ministry has leased the historic structure to the Association.

Renovations are planned to create a cozy bar-lounge, a reading room-library, a photographic dark room, a general meeting and reception hall and offices.

There are plans to institute reciprocal hospitality arrangements with the Overseas Press Club.

— *Constantine Soloyanis*

New Members

ACTIVE RESIDENT:

Tim Boxer
Maurice R. Castagne
Muriel Fischer

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENTS:

Robert K. Brown
Marianne Means

ACTIVE OVERSEAS:

Michael K. Burns
William S. Hieronymus, Jr.

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT:

John M. Allen
Madeleine Conway
Rema Freiburger Faber
Susie Gharib Nazem
Tao Porchon-Lynch
James Wilson

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT:

Albert Behar
Barclay M. Bolas
Wesley Pedersen
Max Rosey
Morris A. Wessel, M.D.
William A. Wisser

ASSOCIATE OVERSEAS

Bradley Graham

AFFILIATE:

Hans J. Rathje

New Applications

ASSOCIATE OVERSEAS

Frederick Kempe: Correspondent, News-week
Sponsors: Henry Gellermann, Harry Rand

Letters

NEW YORK—While it's always nice to see one's name in print, and spelled right, too, let me correct my record: the review of the past year by Henry Gellermann mentions me as chairman of the membership committee. The chairman is and has been the hard-working, effective Harry Rand. I'm merely his co-chairman who backs him up as he performs minor miracles of research, mass mailings, etc. The credit for increased membership over the past several years is Harry's.

—Russ Tornabene

TOKYO — Cultural note: Comics (in Japanese) are big business in Japan. At the moment the biggest of all is the "robot cat" Doraemon. Hailing from the 22nd century, living now with a little boy named Nobita, Doraemon features in books, on television, dolls, badges, innumerable accessories. The combination of science fiction for the young, and the cute character of the cat, have caused the sales of the magazine that carries this comic to soar since 1970. Paperback collections of the strip, some 18 titles, have sold over 30 million copies.

—Masahiro Watanabe

J. Clifford Stark, a former OPC president, now enjoying retirement in Texas, writes this pleasant and encouraging letter to President Henry Gellermann:

As the president who installed the Club in its first home on East 39th Street and before that, chairman of the committee supervising the building project, I congratulate you for the success of your efforts to restore the Club to fiscal responsibility and return it to a suitable home.

In the 25 years since I left New York, it was a saddening experience to watch the decline of the club to its homeless and destitute condition. Those of us in the forefront of the efforts in the early Fifties to establish the club in its own home and in a strong financial position felt confident that its future was secure. Unhappily that was not the case.

You and others working with you deserve great credit for re-establishing the club on a sound financial footing and also for maintaining and expanding its professional status in American journalism.

—J. Clifford Stark

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

Brooklyn Eagles Meet

A reunion of Brooklyn Daily Eagle staffers 25 years after its demise was held recently at the River Cafe, appropriately under the Brooklyn Bridge, on the Brooklyn side.

"On Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" was probably written by Walt Whitman somewhere around this site while he was an Eagle editor.

Tom Cuite, president of the City Council, DA Gold of Brooklyn, and other political dignitaries showed, along with many Eagle alumni.

Some great writers came out of the Eagle — Nunnally Johnson, who later went to fame in Hollywood; Hans Kaltenborn, famous later as a radio newscaster; but above all, Walt Whitman, fired by management for differences of political opinion. Apparently, Walt was a little too liberal.

Brooklyn is a place of long memories that fall like shadows of the long gone Fulton Street El...

—Jeanne Toomey

(OPC'er Jeanne Toomey, now a columnist and magazine writer in New Jersey, was a crime reporter and later ship news editor of the Eagle.)

Placement

WANTED: A seasoned and prolific writer to prepare news releases, public statements, year-end reviews and spot announcements for a metropolitan mass transit system. Candidates should have either the experience or natural ability for doing broadcast interviews and appearances, often under stress conditions. Salary range: \$18-25,000. Reach Bob Van Wagoner, Conrail, 347 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. 10017, or phone (212) 340-2509.

Immediate need for stringers in Paris and Bonn to cover judicial proceedings concerning Iranian assets litigation for Iranian Assets Litigation Reporter, a twice-monthly journal issued by Leonard E.B. Andrews, OPC member since 1960. State-side address: Andrews Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 200, Edgemont, PA 19028. Or phone collect if you know someone in either city to handle the assignment: (215) 353-2565.

Western Connecticut State College in Danbury seeks two instructors experienced in journalism to teach classes. Here, the details:

Experienced hand with metro daily or news agency to teach Journalism I one night a week, September/December. Pays \$750.

Experienced hand with metro daily or medium-sized daily to teach copyediting/makeup one night a week. Pays \$750.

For each, write to Journalism Committee, English Dept., Western Connecticut State College, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810.

A Day at the Races

Our neighbors, the National Democratic Club, have invited us to spend a day at the races with them. On Wednesday, July 16, rain or shine, the 25th annual NDC Handicap will be run at Monmouth Park. For \$40 per person, you can enjoy a cruise down New York Harbor around Sandy Hook to Bahr's Landing on the Shrewsbury River at Highlands, N.J., bus transportation to the track, admission to the club house, a great luncheon, the races, all gratuities taken care of, and your return.

If you are interested, call Mary Fink, 689-1313.

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Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, George E. Burns, Blythe Foote Finke, Thomas J. Kraner, Rosalind Moore, Grace Naismith, Charles J. Schreiber, Associates.

Who, What, Where

By GRACE NAISMITH

This is my last column for the Overseas Press Club Bulletin. I have written it twice a month for nearly ten years and think it is time to retire.

I am spending more and more time in Connecticut now that my husband, John Devlin, has retired from The Times, and it seems only fair that someone who spends a lot of time at the Club should do the column, supplying hot news of our members.

NEW LOOK: Joseph A. Hariss has become a Roving Editor for *The Reader's Digest*. Although he has been a writer for the *Digest's* European Editorial Office in Paris for over two years, the May issue lists him as a Roving Editor... **Lester J. Millman**, after seven years in Israel, will be doing photo-journalism "from his old stand" in Rye, N.Y., July 1. Address: 104 Hix Avenue, Rye, N.Y. 10580; telephone (914) 967-0486.

TRAVELING: Walter H. Diamond and wife, Dorothy, editor of Overseas Press & Consultants, are just back from Cyprus and Jordan where they both handled assignments for several tax, trade and travel publications.

ABC's Good Morning, N.Y., producer **Josephine Lyons** is in London and the Lake country for some free-lancing.

GRANTS FOR THE ARTS, by Virginia White, editor of *Grants Magazine* and New School lecturer on the art of grantsmanship, has just been published by Plenum Publishing Corp. It is a guide for artists and nonprofit arts groups in all fields.

HONOR: Bill Williamson of the *Brazil Herald/Latin America Daily Post* received one of Brazil's highest awards April 23 in ceremonies presided over by President Joao Figueiro in Brasilia. He was decorated with the "Order of Rio Branco" medal in the rank of "Officer". The award is given Brazilian citizens or foreigners "who by their services or exceptional merits have made significant contributions to the country." Williamson has lived in Brazil for 24 years and for nearly 20 was editor and managing partner of the *Brazil Herald*, the country's only English-language daily.

ADVICE ON HOW TO RESEARCH: Alden Todd in "Finding Facts Fast," now in paperback (Ten Speed Press),

gives many answers. "Jauntily written," says *The New York Times*, "and will tell you how to go about finding the information you need quickly and easily." And speaking of research, medical and health writers and editors should be aware of the unique mid-Manhattan library of the United Hospital Fund of New York. At 3 East 54 Street, this extensive library has a collection of books, reports and periodicals on medical, science and related subjects. Arrangements can be made through Carl Bakal of Anna M. Rosenberg Associates, 759-4811. Also, just out, is the Congressional Quarterly's "Washington Information Directory 1980-81," \$45.

... and postscripts

Noting that Larry Stessin is quitting as head of OPC's speaker's committee, Jack O'Dwyer praises him in his PR newsletter for having "given the Overseas Press Club the best speakers program of any New York communications group over the past five years."

OPC president Henry Gellermann has been made a director of the World Press Freedom Committee.

"Stranded," a play by OPCer Milli Janz, got good reviews when it was performed during May and early June by Troupe Theatre in New York City. Milli is executive director of the American Community Cultural Center Assn. of Pompton Plains, N.J.



Photographs of personalities taken by Pamela Rankin-Smith are currently on exhibit in the OPC gallery, arranged by OPCer Charles Rotkin. Ms. Rankin-Smith, a product of the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and the New School, has been photographing celebrities for the past several years. She has exhibited at La Galeri in Paris and at Nikon House. She is working on two books — *Rear Views*, with captions by Shakespeare, and *Well Known People*, photographs.

Bernard S. Redmont, CBS News correspondent in Paris, delivers the Commencement address this year at Florida International University's graduation exercises. They will be held in June at the Miami Beach Convention Hall. Redmont will at the same time pick up an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

NEXT BULLETIN ISSUE JULY 15

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FIRST CLASS

